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THE

PLAN

OF THE

WALTHAMSTOW LYING-IN CHARITY,

FOR

MARRIED WOMEN

AT

THEIR OWN HABITATIONS.

INSTITUTED, ANNO 1797.

WITH THE

RULES and ORDERS.

London.

PRINTED BY H. FRY, FINSBURY-PLACE.

1797.

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INTRODUCTION.

THE great hardſhips which poor Women ſuffer during the time of their Lying-in, and the danger to which their conſtitutions and even lives are frequently expoſed for want of the proper attendance, and other neceſſaries peculiar to that ſituation, are well known, and much to be lamented. In the Metropolis, as well as in many parts of the Kingdom, Public Charities have been inſtituted for removing or alleviating the diſtreſſes of the poor on theſe occaſions; but the benefits of theſe Inſtitutions are neceſſarily

ſarily local. We ſometimes find, indeed, that in ſmaller circles, theſe wants are ſupplied by the ſpontaneous benevolence and exertions of humane individuals; but that mode of relief is not always to be depended on. The want of information, a fear of offending, and a variety of other cauſes, may concur to ſtifle the claim of diſtreſs, or to render private aſſiſtance impoſſible, or ineffectual.

The Ladies of Walthamſtow reflecting on theſe circumſtances, and wiſhing to apply a remedy, by rendering the condition of the poor within their neighbourhood as eaſy and comfortable as ſuch a ſituation will admit, have propoſed to effect it by

by means of an Annual Subſcription among themſelves; and that their intention might not be miſtaken, they have eſtabliſhed certain Rules and Orders, to which they expect from all a ſtrict conformity.

GENERAL

GENERAL

PLAN and RULES.

I.

None are deemed objects of this Charity but the Wives of poor Labourers or other indigent Perſons reſiding within the Pariſh.

II.

Every Lady is at liberty to ſubſcribe according to her inclination. For every Guinea and Half ſubſcribed, ſhe will have one recommendation.

III.

A Ticket, ſigned by a Subſcriber will entitle the Woman to whom it ſhall be given

to

to the benefits of this Charity, which ſhall be as follow :—

The attendance of a Midwife.

The attendance of a Nurſe one week.

The uſe of a Box, containing all neceſſary linen.

Three quarts of Caudle every third day the firſt week, and three pounds of Meat every third day the ſecond week of her lying-in.

IV.

A regular account ſhall be entered in a proper book, of the Subſcriptions and Diſburſements, by one of the Subſcribers.

V.

As the great objection to the eſtabliſhing of this Charity has hitherto been that the numerous avocations of the Ladies would prevent any

any one from taking the ſole management of it, it therefore is propoſed that each Lady ſhall have the goodneſs either to call and ſee, or ſend a truſty perſon to ſee, that juſtice is done to the women to whom ſhe may give her Tickets. And to obviate a farther objection which has ariſen from the difficulty of finding a proper perſon to ſuperintend the linen, and inſpect and regulate the accounts of the Charity, a Lady (for diſtinction's ſake to be called the Manager) has undertaken to give her attention to theſe eſſential points; and alſo to ſuch caſes and ſituations of the patients as may require an occaſional diſcretionary uſe of the money belonging to the Fund.

RULES

RULES

FOR THE

LYING-IN WOMEN.

I.

No perſon who drinks ſtrong liquors, or is in any other reſpect immoral in her conduct, can poſſibly be ſuffered to partake of the benefits of a Charity which is eſtabliſhed ſolely for the relief of ſober induſtrious Women.

II.

Every woman who wiſhes to partake of the benefits of this Charity, is perſonally (unleſs prevented by indiſpoſition) to attend one of the Subſcribers a fortnight at leaſt before the expected

expected time of her lying-in, in the forenoon: she will then, or at some convenient time afterwards, receive a proper ticket or order to the Midwife appointed to attend her.

III.

She is to behave herself soberly and orderly whilst under the care of the Midwife and Nurse, submitting herself to their directions, and carefully to abstain from drams and other strong liquors.

IV.

As soon as possible after her recovery, and she shall have been churched, she shall attend the Lady from whom she received the ticket, to return thanks for the relief she has received.

If

V.

If there ſhould be any reaſonable cauſe of complaint againſt either the Midwife or the Nurſe, ſhe is to make known the ſame to the Subſcriber who ſhall have recommended her, as ſoon afterwards as poſſible, that the matter may be enquired into and redreſſed.

VI.

She ſhall return the box of Linen at the end of the month, clean and in good order, unleſs prevented by indiſpoſition.

VII.

When the recovery of the lying-in Patient is, from weakneſs attending her ſituation, protracted, and ſhe has occaſion for the linen more than a month, application muſt be made to the Manager for a farther Loan.

In

VIII.

In caſe ſhe ſhall wilfully diſobey any of theſe Rules, ſhe will not be admitted to any future benefit from this Charity.

RULES

RULES

FOR THE

MIDWIVES and NURSES.

I.

They ſhall not attend any woman on account of this Charity, but ſuch as ſhall have delivered to them a printed Ticket for that purpoſe, properly dated and ſigned by a Subſcriber.

II.

Such orders having been delivered, they are immediately to attend them when required, whether by day or in the night, to diſcharge the truſt repoſed in them with tenderneſs, care,

care, and fidelity. The Midwife to continue her attendance as long as ſhall be neceſſary.

III.

They ſhall not directly or indirectly take or receive from any object of this Charity, or from any other perſon except the Manager, any fee, gratuity, or other reward whatſoever, on account of their attendance.

IV.

They ſhall not drink drams or other ſtrong liquors during their attendance on any object of this Charity; nor ſhall they give or ſuffer the ſame to be given to any ſuch object, on any account or pretence whatſoever.

V.

That the Midwife ſee a proper Nurſe provided, that 5s. be paid for her attendance for the

the week, and that ſhe waſh the Patients linen before ſhe leaves her.

VI.

In caſe they ſhall wilfully diſobey any of theſe Rules, they ſhall be immediately diſcharged, and never afterwards employed on account of this Charity.

FINIS.